

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

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O 240901Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8798

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: JULY 24 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT CONTINUED SYRO-
PALESTINIAN MEETINGS TO REACH UNDERSTANDING

1. MEDIA REPORTED TWO MORE MEETINGS BETWEEN SYRIAN AND
PLO DELEGATIONS PREVIOUS DAY. FONMIN KHADDAM STATED THAT,
"WE CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS IN ATMOSPHERE OF FRANKNESS AND
BROTHERHOOD AND WE WILL MEET AGAIN SATURDAY." ASAD ALSO
MET WITH JALLUD TO DISCUSS LIBYAN'S RECENT CONTACTS WITH
VARIOUS LEBANESE PARTIES.

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2. PRESS CITED STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN ROLE IN

LEBANON FROM NUMBER OF LEBANESE PERSONALITIES. ECONMIN
OSEIRAN URGED ARAB LEAGUE TO TASK SYRIA WITH RESPONSIBILITY
FOR HALTING FIGHTING IF LEAGUE UNABLE TO JOB ITSELF.
LEBANESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CRITICIZED
SPEECH OF SADAT AND LAUDED SYRIAN EFFORTS TO RESTORE
ORDER TO LEBANON. ACCORDING TO SYRIAN PRESS, VIOLENT
FIGHTING CONTINUED IN BEIRUT JULY 23 WHILE HASAN SABRI
AL-KHOULI CALLED FOR ENLARGEMENT OF AREA SEPARATING
FIGHTERS.

3. AL-THAWRAH REPORTED ON SECOND PAGE STATEMENT BY
SOVIET SPOKESMAN AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN SOVIET PAVILION
AT DAMASCUS FAIR IN WHICH HE STRESSED STRENGTH OF SYRO-
SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. HE REAFFIRMED SOVIET
SUPPORT FOR SYRIA'S STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND
ZIONISM.

4. AL-THAWRAH'S POLITICAL EDITOR ADDRESSED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE
TO "THOSE (PALESTINIANS) MEETING IN DAMASCUS TODAY."
HE WROTE THAT SYRO-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE MUST PROCEED FROM
FIVE STARTING POINTS:

(A) MAINTENANCE OF STRATEGIC NATURE OF SYRO-PALESTINIAN
RELATIONSHIP;

(B) CONFIDENCE IN SYRIA AND IN ITS LEADERSHIP;

(C) REALIZATION THAT LEBANESE CIVIL WAR MAY INJURE ALL
SIDES "UNLESS WE COOPERATE TO HALT IT";

(D) REALIZATION THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SYRIA IN
CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS; AND

(E) ACCEPTANCE ON PART OF PALESTINIANS OF LEBANON'S UNITY
AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOWARD THIS GOAL.

EDITOR CHARGED THAT "GRAVE FAULTS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED
AND SHOULD BE CORRECTED BY HONEST AND SINCERE PERSONS
IN PALESTINIAN RANKS." HE ADDED THAT SYRIA HAS ALWAYS
SUPPORT PALESTINIANS AND ASSERTED THAT IT WAS INCUMBENT
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UPON PALESTINIANS TO PRESERVE SYRIAN SUPPORT.

5. COMMENT: SYRIAN MEDIA DESCRIPTION OF TALKS WITH
PLO DELEGATION LED BY QADDUMI PROVIDES LITTLE INDICATION
LIKELY OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION. IT IS APPARENT THAT NO
BREAKTHROUGH HAS YET BEEN ACHIEVED. POLITICAL EDITOR'S
ADVICE TO DELEGATION PLACES BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY ON
PALESTINIANS TO REVISE THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF SYRIA AND

TO APPRECIATE DANGERS ARISING FROM CONTINUATION OF LEBANESE
CRISIS.
MURPHY

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